

ST BLAISE TOWN COUNCIL NEWSLETTER

ISSUE 1 Spring 2011

Welcome to the first edition of the St Blaise Town Council's magazine. This will appear four times a year.

The aim is to provide news of what the Town Council are doing on your behalf.

How Can You Find Out More?

The Town Council have a website:
(www.stblaisetowncouncil.co.uk).

The Town Clerk, Gaynor Mamo, is based at Alexander Hall, and is usually there on Monday, Wednesday and Friday mornings from 9am to 1pm. Her telephone

number is 01726 816595. If she is not there, you can leave a message on the answering machine. Gaynor's email address is: townclerk.stblaise@virgin.net.

Since 1 April 2011, the Town Council have also employed a Community Warden. Should you wish to contact the warden, please do so via the Town Clerk.

Town Councillors

There are ten members of St Blaise Town Council. Each of them is responsible for one or more particular areas of the Council's business. Their names and contact details can be found on the Town Council website or the notice board outside Alexander Hall.

A Message from the Chair of St Blaise Town Council

When we were preparing the town plan, which was published last year, one message that came through very clearly from the replies you sent to our questionnaire was how many people felt that they were not kept fully in touch with what the Council was doing on their behalf. This newsletter is part of our response to that concern. We will be using it to tell you what we are up to, and to provide other general information that we think is of importance. But we also hope that you will see it as an invitation to contact us and let us know your views on the issues we are addressing. Or to tell us of other things of concern to you.

At the moment a major preoccupation for us centres on the dreadful flooding we saw in our town last autumn. We are grateful to Charles Richards, and to our

Cornwall Councillors, Roy Taylor and David Hughes, for their important contributions to our joint efforts towards lessening the risk of serious damage should we face similar problems in the future.

Another important item on our agenda is the extension of the Burrows Centre. This was acquired by the Town Council from Restormel Borough Council. An extension will provide us with space for additional function rooms for use by the community, as well as a new home for the Town Council Offices.

We recently took the decision to employ a part-time Community Warden, when Ocean Housing had to cease funding this position at short notice. We are watching carefully how this role develops. We hope that we may be able to extend the scheme when funds can be made available.

June Anderson

Town Council Meetings

The Town Council meets on the last Thursday of every month (except December) at 7:30 pm in Alexander Hall. Meetings are open to members of the public. Members of the public can address the Council (for a limited time and only by prior arrangement with the Town Clerk) at the beginning of each meeting.

Town Meeting

The annual Town Meeting will be held at Alexander Hall at 7:00pm on Thursday 26 May. This meeting provides an opportunity for the Town Council to report back to residents on what it has done over the past year. It also provides the occasion for residents to raise issues of relevance in a public forum.

Town Bus Service

Many people told us that they would welcome the creation of a town bus service. Because of the area covered by St Blaise

(significantly larger than, for example, Fowey), this is a major undertaking. We have now started work on investigating whether a service/services can work in our local circumstances. The first step is to try and decide where a service should call. We have a number of ideas of our own. But we would welcome your views – to Gaynor Mamo or to any Town Councillor, please.

Allotments

The provision of allotments is a difficult issue for the Town Council, since we would need to acquire land for this purpose. And suitable land is in short supply in St Blaise. But we know that a number of people would like to be able to rent an allotment. Could you please let Gaynor Mamo know if you would wish to rent an allotment. Could you at the same time tell her how far you would be prepared to travel to get to an allotment. Most importantly of all, could

you let her know if you would be willing to help organise and run an 'allotment society' which could run any group of allotments that might be established.

Services Available in St Blaise

Did you know that Cornwall Council's One Stop Shop Out and About service visits Alexander Hall every Tuesday morning. You can use this to report a faulty street light, report missing or vandalised street signs, or get advice on housing and benefits matters.

Representatives of the police are also present at the One Stop Shop every other Tuesday morning. This is to provide you with an opportunity to speak to a Police Community Support Officer about any community safety issues that are of concern to you.

Ocean Housing also send a representative to the One Stop Shop once a month. And other public

information services are also there on a regular basis.

Your Views?

We hope that this first issue of the newsletter has been of interest to you. But we hope that it will not just be something you read and forget. If there are matters that you would like to see covered in future issues, please do let us know. If you have views on what you have read, or on other matters of general concern to residents of St Blaise. Please get in touch. We wish to be a responsive council. We cannot achieve that without you telling us what you would like to see us respond to.

The Big Local

Many of you will have heard of this, and of the £1million it will provide for community-based projects in St Blaise and Par. If you would like to know more, please contact Gaynor Mamo in the first instance.